

China Trip Set For President

By Lou Cannon

Washington Post Staff Writer

The uncertainties that clouded President Ford's prospective visit to China have been removed and the trip will proceed as scheduled, White House officials said yesterday.

Planning for the trip was delayed earlier this month when the Chinese balked at receiving an advance party that was to have made final arrangements for Mr. Ford's trip to Peking. At one point the advance party was at Andrews Air Force Base awaiting instructions to take off for China that it never received.

White House press secretary Ron Nessen said yesterday that the advance party now is scheduled to leave on Nov. 17, soon after Mr. Ford returns from an economic summit meeting in Paris.

Precise dates for Mr. Ford's trip have not been announced, but it is believed the President will leave the day after Thanksgiving and return a week later. White House officials said he will spend four or five days in China.

The delays in the planning of the visit were thought to

reflect Chinese unhappiness over the U.S. policy of detente with the Soviet Union, an attitude that the Chinese made clear last month to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger when he visited Peking to discuss the presidential trip.

The official White House view, as expressed by Nessen, has been that the trip was never in serious jeopardy and that only planning details remained to be worked out by the two governments.

On other issues yesterday, Nessen reiterated President Ford's confidence in George Bush, the U.S. envoy to Peking and former Republican national chairman, whom Mr. Ford has nominated as head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Nessen made light of objections that have been raised in the Senate against Bush on grounds he is a partisan who still looks forward to a political career. The White House press secretary called a query about this objection "a nonsense question" and praised Bush as "a man of intelligence and integrity" with a "high standard of morals and ethics."